

I am writing to urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing misleading charges on my monthly phone bill so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including CU. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Many consumers feel as I do -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. Consumers should be able to pick and choose what services they want, and not be stuck with prepackaged services that they don't want or need on their phone service or wireless service, this would go along way in reducing the cost of phone service. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. Phone Companies and Wireless Providers should be held accountable for doing these type of practices, and should be investigated when consumer complaints are received and should be put under oversight until such time that they have stop such practices and made restitution and have improved the quality of their services. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in vi!

olation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit carriers from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority. Consumer oversight should also be part of the process of investigation, remediation and any New Regulation(s) as a result of any investigation, and the investigation should be handled by Independent Investigators without interference from FCC Commissioners or from Congress and/or Lobbyists for the Carriers under investigation or not, this is only way to insure fairness in such manners.